

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



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Norton Sound Area Office
Pouch 1148
Nome, AK, 99762
Date Issued: June 15, 2012
Time: 3:15 p.m.

NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL BAIT FISHERY OPENS

An exceptionally large amount of ice remains in southern Norton Sound. The department test fish crew departed from Cape Denbigh yesterday to prevent being marooned due to the approaching ice. However, northern Norton Sound is ice free and Norton Sound Seafood Products in Nome is interested in purchasing bait herring. Consequently, the department will open the Norton Sound commercial bait fishery effective 5:00 p.m. this evening and the fishery will remain open continuously through Saturday June 30. Any permit holders interested in harvesting bait herring and selling to the Nome plant must register with Norton Sound Seafoods in Nome.

To the south, the Unalakleet-based sea food plant is not ready to process bait herring due to shorefast ice. Once permit holders in southern Norton Sound are able to fish herring, they must make sure they have a market for the bait herring. Herring fishermen can use their commercial herring sac roe permit card or their commercial herring bait permit card for this fishery.

If you have any questions regarding the commercial herring fishery, please call the ADF&G Nome Area office at 1-800-560-2271, or the Unalakleet field office at 1-907-624-3921.

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